

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 03375 131533Z

14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 SAM-01 OMB-01 /081 W

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R 131216Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8462

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, AS, JA, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN OBSERVATIONS IN PHNOM PENH

REF: A) PEKING 51 (NOTAL)

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICER WHO FOLLOWS CAMBODIAN AFFAIRS PASSED US GIST OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM HIS EMBASSY IN PEKING, RECOUNTING CONVERSATION IN PEKING WITH ROMANIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR LEFTER. AS ADDRESSEES PROBABLY AWARE, LEFTER AND COLLEAGUE FROM HOME OFFICE VISITED PHNOM PENH JAN 9-23 IN CONNECTION WITH OPENING ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN CAMBODIA.

2. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. THE ROMANIAN SAID THERE WERE NO PEOPLE IN PHNOM PENH WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOLDIERS AND SOME LABORERS. HE SAW NO SHOPS OR HOTELS OPEN. HE WAS APPARENTLY OBLIGED TO STAY IN THE BUILDING WHICH WILL HOUSE THE NEW ROMANIAN EMBASSY ONCE IT OPENS. THE "ARMED FORCES" BROUGHT THE TWO ROMANIANS FOOD TO EAT
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 03375 131533Z

EVERY DAY AND WERE THEIR ONLY CHANNEL FOR RECEIVING

"MATERIAL" (MEANING UNKNOWN).

3. FOREIGN RELATIONS. A PERSON DESCRIBED AS A "VERY HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL BUT NOT SIHANOUK" -- PROBABLY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IENG SARY -- TOLD THE ROMANIANS THAT COUNTRIES WOULD BE PERMITTED TO OPEN EMBASSIES IN PHNOM PENH ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS: 1) THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORTED GRUNK THROUGHOUT THE WAR COULD ESTABLISH EMBASSIES "BY MAY OR JUNE"; 2) THOSE AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES WHICH DID NOT NECESSARILY RECOGNIZE GRUNK BUT DID NOT SUPPORT THE U.S. DURING THE WAR COULD OPEN EMBASSIES AFTER MAY OR JUNE; AND 3) THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH RECOGNIZED THE LON NOL REGIME WOULD BE PERMITTED TO OPEN EMBASSIES AFTER THE SECOND GROUP. THE HIGH CAMBODIAN OFFICIAL TOLD THE ROMANIAN THAT EXCEPTIONS MAY BE MADE FOR AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN AND THESE TWO COUNTRIES MAY BE PLACED IN A SPECIAL POSITION AFTER THE CATEGORY ONE COUNTRIES, TO BE ALLOWED TO OPEN AFTER MAY-JUNE. HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT CAMBODIA NEEDS HELP IN PRODUCING ELECTRICITY (THE ROMANIAN OBSERVED THAT SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IN PHNOM PENH WAS SPORADIC WHILE HE WAS THERE) AND WOULD LIKE THESE COUNTRIES TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PREK THNOT DAM NEAR KOMPONG SPEU. FINALLY, THE ROMANIAN SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SARIN CHHAK, WAS NOT IN PHNOM PENH DURING THIS STAY BUT WAS OUT SOMEWHERE IN THE PROVINCES PARTICIPATING IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES.

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